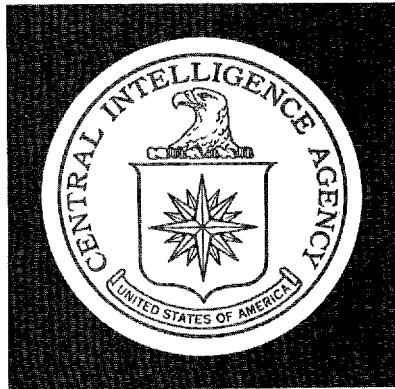


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Central Intelligence Bulletin

DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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[Czechoslovakia-USSR: (Information as of 2300 EDT)

The Czechoslovak leadership, moving quickly to put the country on an even keel again, faces the imposing task of convincing the people that the agreement with the Soviets is the best that could be hoped for under the circumstances.

The text of the settlement published yesterday after four days of talks in Moscow provides, in general, for a return to the status quo of before the intervention, but with renewed pledges by the Czechoslovak leadership to observe the Cierna and Bratislava constraints. The Czechoslovak leadership, presumably including the conservatives, will remain in power, and the Soviets have pledged not to interfere in domestic affairs. The occupation troops, however, are to remain until the situation returns to normal, but reportedly will be withdrawn from the centers of cities and towns, as the first of a three-step withdrawal plan. Some Soviet troops may be permanently stationed on the West German border. Press and radio censorship will also be reimposed.

The Czechoslovak leaders, sensing that the agreement is felt to be a betrayal of their nation's week-long resistance to the occupation, pleaded publicly yesterday for unity, understanding and discipline. Both party leader Dubcek and President Svoboda re-endorsed the January and April party central committee plenums, which set in course the reformist Action Program, and vowed not to retreat "as much as one step."

Certain provisions of the settlement, as well as the ambiguities on several important issues, seem indeed to have split the Czechoslovak people, at least temporarily. Several clandestine radios urged]

[the people to reject the settlement and Western press correspondents reported heated debates being waged on the streets of Prague.

Last evening, a crowd estimated at between 1,500 and 5,000 marched to Wenceslaus Square shouting "We want the truth," and reportedly ripped down posters of Dubcek and Svoboda. Many bystanders jeered the marchers. The demonstration broke up after a parliamentary deputy reportedly assured them that the National Assembly would not ratify an agreement that infringes the country's freedom of speech or its sovereignty.

Later in the evening, however, emotions evidently cooled. The embassy reported that the radios were saying that many organizations had begun modifying vehement resolutions they had passed earlier in the day. The new party central committee, whose status is unclear under the settlement, joined with Dubcek in appealing for order, as have several other important party and military organizations.

There are no indications that any of the Soviet occupation forces have left Czechoslovakia. In fact, the Soviets appear to have reinforced, rather than rotated, their forces in Czechoslovakia. Since 25-26 August, a Soviet heavy tank division from southern East Germany and unidentified elements from the western USSR have entered western Czechoslovakia.

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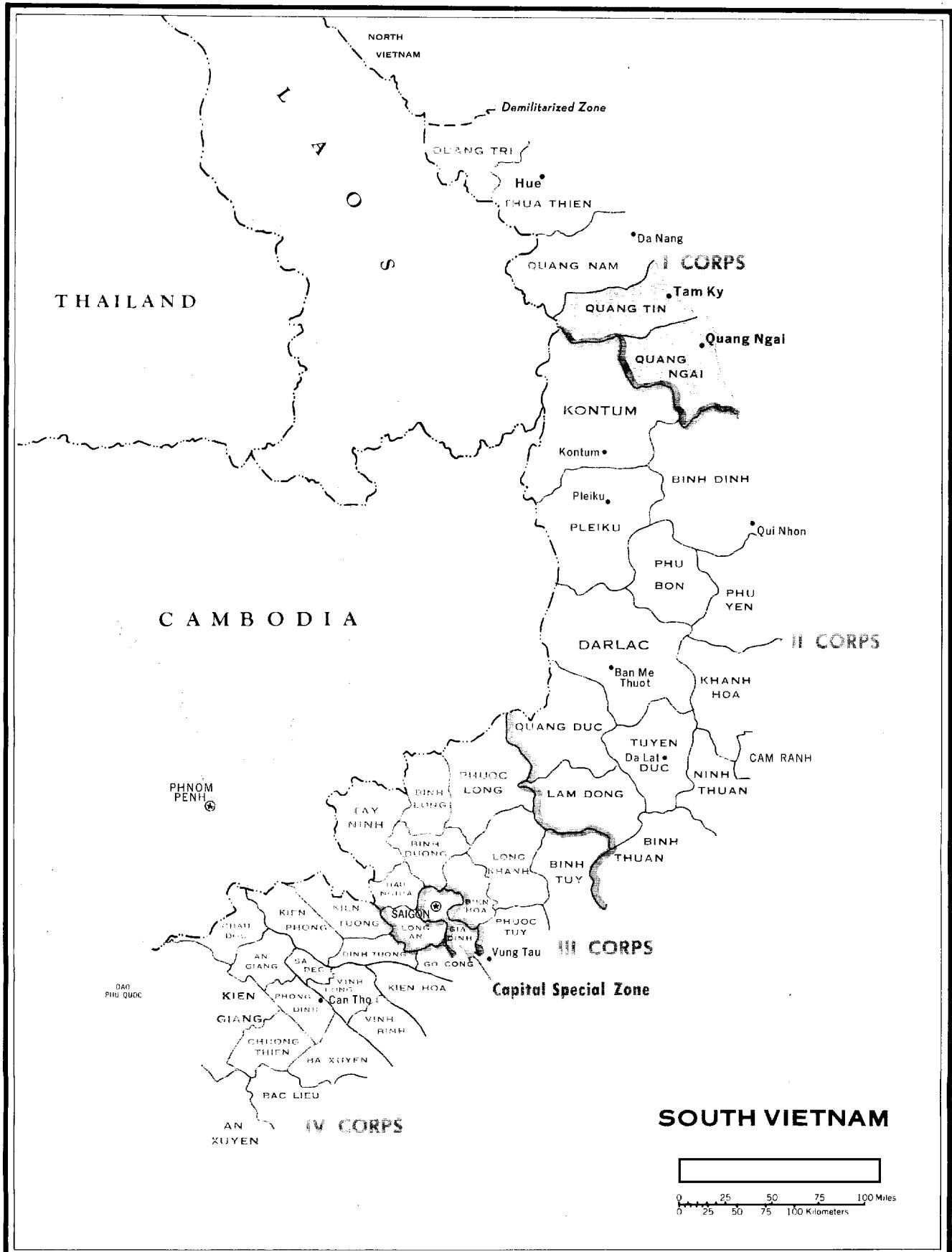
Rumania: Bucharest's concern over the possibility of Soviet armed intervention continues but seems to be lessening.

The US military attaché reported that as of 24 and 25 August the Rumanian armed forces appeared to be in an early state of alert. His impression was that by the 26th, however, the atmosphere was slightly relaxed. There are no known military build-ups on either the Hungarian or Bulgarian borders.

Rumanian Foreign Minister Manescu, who is also President of the UN General Assembly, returned to New York on Monday. He seems engaged in delicate diplomatic activity aimed at supporting the Czechoslovaks and in probing for US and other non-Communist support for Rumania's independent foreign policy.

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[South Vietnam: The heaviest fighting on 26-27 August resulted from allied spoiling operations against major Communist units in I Corps.

Significant casualties were inflicted against enemy main force units deployed near Hue, Tam Ky, and Quang Ngai, all of which are likely to be primary targets in any forthcoming enemy offensive.

US forces killed 92 enemy troops belonging to the North Vietnamese 5th Regiment some 12 miles south of Hue. Random small-arms fire and almost daily sightings of enemy units near the city have caused tension among Hue residents, who apparently expect new enemy action against the city soon.

Fighting between US forces and elements of the North Vietnamese 2nd Division deployed near Tam Ky, capital of Quang Tin Province, cost the Communists 75 additional dead. This raises the total of enemy killed near Tam Ky since 24 August to more than 500.

In adjacent Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnamese troops inflicted losses of 86 killed on units probably belonging to the North Vietnamese 3rd Division, which has been massing near Quang Ngai city.

[all the aforementioned enemy units in I Corps have been preparing assaults against nearby cities as another phase in the current series of attacks, which up to now has been targeted mainly against secondary objectives. Communist plans for attacks against such primary targets, however, may be delayed by the punishment being inflicted by allied spoiling operations.]

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Enemy forces in the other three corps areas again avoided costly heavy contact on 26-27 August, mainly conducting harassing actions on the ground and mortar and rocket attacks against allied positions. [] (Map)]

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South Korea: Security authorities have scored a substantial success in rounding up a major North Korean subversive group.

According to an official announcement, the primary mission of the 158-man ring was to organize the nucleus for a liberation front similar to that of the Viet Cong. The network appears to have been particularly active within academic and religious circles.

This is the second large-scale espionage ring with roots in the intellectual community that has been apprehended by the South Koreans in the last two years. The mission of the 14-man agent team captured with its boat off Cheju Island last week was to exfiltrate a leader of the ring.

The Pak government is giving heavy play to the roundup, probably in part to compensate for a recent court decision ordering new trials for certain members of the ring apprehended last year, some of whom were spirited out of West Germany by South Korean security agents. This decision was part of the price Seoul had to pay to end its dispute with Bonn over the affair. The authorities no doubt hope that the publicity given to the capture of the second ring will dispel any impression that the regime is showing any tolerance toward Communists. [redacted]

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Bolivia: Student violence and labor agitation have abated but tensions remain high.

The government's release of arrested student and labor leaders has enabled it to secure agreements with the two groups to cease their disruptive activities. Many students, however, are dissatisfied with the agreement, and demonstrations will probably resume soon. Urban teachers are continuing to agitate for wage increases, and it is likely that the students and teachers will be joined by some labor groups despite the agreement with the government. The low morale of some police units and a shortage of riot-control equipment could cause problems in dealing with new disorders.

General Marcos Vasquez, who has evaded arrest since failing in a coup attempt on 21 August, reportedly is seeking support from military units near La Paz for a plot being organized by members of the political opposition. Leaders of the three major opposition parties, many of whom are in exile, reportedly have agreed to work together to oust Barrientos and form a new government.

Without military support, efforts to overthrow the government have little chance of success. At least for now, armed forces commander General Ovando and the majority of top military leaders support Barrientos. The President, however, is reported to have said that he is more concerned with the possibility of a military coup than with the threat from Vasquez.

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Malaysia - Soviet Union: Malaysia's relations with the USSR will not be affected by the Soviet move against Czechoslovakia, according to a Malaysian Foreign Ministry official. Kuala Lumpur, which established relations with the Soviet Union early this year, feels that strong censure of Soviet action would represent a reversal of policy. The Malaysian Government probably is also influenced by the Soviets' large annual rubber purchases. The Soviet Union is Malaysia's best customer.

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Middle East - Africa: The growing locust threat has prompted a new call for collective efforts by East African control officials. Observers from the Sudan and the Arabian Peninsula, where particularly fertile breeding grounds are located, will be invited to a meeting of the East African locust control group in Asmara to consider new steps to combat the problem. The control group is seriously concerned over the threat to its member countries and is trying to enlist the cooperation of neighboring governments before the situation gets totally out of hand.

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Guyana: Sugar workers have ended their week-long strike on the basis of concessions arranged by Prime Minister Burnham to avert serious economic and political problems. He also feared that if the strike was allowed to continue it would degenerate into violence. A union led by pro-Communist opposition leader Cheddi Jagan had kicked off the strike, and Jagan now will attempt to make political capital of the settlement.

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Guatemala: Police captured Carlos Francisco Ordóñez, a high-ranking leader of the Communist Rebel Armed Forces, in Guatemala City on 24 August. Four other leaders were killed last May by army units in northeastern Guatemala. The group has been relatively quiet since 2 August when an attempt was made to assassinate three rightist political leaders.

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